IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the Application are reproduced below, regardless of whether amended or not.

1.   (Currently Amended) ~~A controller for a packet processing system, configured to~~ **An apparatus, comprising**:

a selection and distribution unit that is included within a base station controller, the selection and distribution unit being operable to:

(a)   receive signal quality information **from a plurality of base transceiver stations** about a plurality of data streams **that are associated with a plurality of mobile stations which are capable of moving within a wireless network**;

(b)   ~~based on the signal quality information, to~~ select one of the plurality of data streams **associated with a selected one of the mobile stations** to be forwarded ~~independently of the controller~~ **to a next destination** ~~wherein the controller is configured to receive the signal quality information from a plurality of base transceiver stations, and wherein the controller is configured to direct one of the base transceiver stations to forward its data stream to a network device~~**; and**

(c)   direct reverse communication traffic associated with the selected mobile station to a selected one or more of the plurality of base transceiver stations, wherein the selected mobile station determines which base transceiver station is to accommodate an associated communication session based on signal quality information identified by the selected mobile station.

2.   (Currently Amended) The ~~controller~~ **apparatus** as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data streams are associated with ~~a call~~ **the communication** session from ~~a remote device~~ **the selected mobile station**, and the ~~controller~~ **selection and distribution unit** is configured to select only one data stream to be forwarded.

3.   (Currently Amended) The ~~controller~~ **apparatus** as recited in Claim 2, wherein the data streams are associated with a plurality of call sessions from ~~remote devices~~ **the mobile stations**, and the ~~controller~~ **selection and distribution unit** is configured to select only one data stream to be forwarded for each call session.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Currently Amended) The ~~controller~~ **apparatus** as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data stream comprises packets using **an** internet protocol.

7.   (Currently Amended) The ~~controller~~ **apparatus** as recited in Claim 1, further configured to provide a multicast address to the ~~network device~~ **next destination** for transmitting a data stream.

8.   (Currently Amended) The ~~controller~~ **apparatus** as recited in Claim 7, further configured to instruct a selected one of the base transceiver stations to receive the data stream at the multicast address.

9.   (Currently Amended) The ~~controller~~ **apparatus** as recited in Claim 8, wherein the data stream comprises packets using **an** internet protocol.

10.   (Currently Amended) The ~~controller~~ **apparatus** as recited in Claim 1, further configured to establish a multicast address for issuing commands to the plurality of base transceiver stations.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method for processing packets, comprising the steps of:

(a)   receiving signal quality information **from a plurality of base transceiver stations** about a plurality of data streams **that are associated with a plurality of mobile stations which are capable of moving within a wireless network**;

(b)   selecting, ~~based on the signal quality information,~~ one of the plurality of data streams **associated with a selected one of the mobile stations** to be forwarded ~~independently of the controller~~ **to a next destination** ~~wherein the controller is configured to receive the signal quality information from a plurality of base transceiver stations, and wherein the controller is configured to direct one of the base transceiver stations to forward its data stream to a network device;~~ **and**

directing reverse communication traffic associated with the selected mobile station to a selected one or more of the plurality of base transceiver stations, wherein the selected mobile station determines which base transceiver station is to accommodate an associated communication session based on signal quality information identified by the selected mobile station.

12.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for processing packets, comprising a computer usable medium having machine readable code embodied therein for performing the steps of:

(a)   receiving signal quality information **from a plurality of base transceiver stations** about a plurality of data streams **that are associated with a plurality of mobile stations which are capable of moving within a wireless network**;

(b)   selecting, ~~based on the signal quality information,~~ one of the plurality of data streams **associated with a selected one of the mobile stations** to be forwarded ~~independently of the controller~~ **to a next destination** ~~wherein the controller is configured to receive the signal quality information from a plurality of base transceiver stations, and wherein the controller is configured to direct one of the base transceiver stations to forward its data stream to a network device~~**; and**

directing reverse communication traffic associated with the selected mobile station to a selected one or more of the plurality of base transceiver stations, wherein the selected mobile station determines which base transceiver station is to accommodate an associated communication session based on signal quality information identified by the selected mobile station.

13.   (Currently Amended) A controller for a packet processing system, comprising:

(a)   means for receiving signal quality information **from a plurality of base transceiver stations** about a plurality of data streams **that are associated with a plurality of mobile stations which are capable of moving within a wireless network**; ~~and~~

(b)   means for selecting one of the plurality of data streams **associated with a selected one of the mobile stations** to be forwarded **to a next destination** ~~Independently of the controller, based on the signal quality information, wherein the signal quality information is received from a plurality of base transceiver stations, and wherein a selected one of the base transceiver stations is directed to forward its data stream to a network device~~**; and**

means for directing reverse communication traffic associated with the selected mobile station to a selected one or more of the plurality of base transceiver stations, wherein the selected mobile station determines which base transceiver station is to accommodate an associated communication session based on signal quality information identified by the selected mobile station.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~controller~~ **apparatus** as recited in Claim 13, wherein the data streams are associated with ~~a call~~ **the communication** session from ~~a remote device~~ **the selected mobile station**, and the means for selecting is configured to select only one data stream to be forwarded.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~controller~~ **apparatus** as recited in Claim 14, wherein the data streams are associated with a plurality of call sessions from ~~remote devices~~ **the mobile station**, and the means for selecting is configured to select only one data stream to be forwarded for each call session.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~controller~~ **apparatus** as recited in Claim 13, wherein the data stream comprises packets using **an** internet protocol.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~controller~~ **apparatus** as recited in Claim 13, further comprising means for providing a multicast address to the ~~network device~~ **next destination** for transmitting a data stream.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~controller~~ **apparatus** as recited in Claim 19, further comprising means for instructing a selected one of the base transceiver stations to receive the data stream at the multicast address.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~controller~~ **apparatus** as recited in Claim 20, wherein the data stream comprises packets using **an** internet protocol.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~controller~~ **apparatus** as recited in Claim 13, further comprising means for establishing a multicast address for issuing commands to the plurality of base transceiver stations.